

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
11 March 2004 (11.03.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/021405 A3

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: **G06F 9/45**,
17/50, H01L 21/3205, 21/4763, G06F 19/00

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2003/027341

(22) International Filing Date: 28 August 2003 (28.08.2003)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
60/406,905 28 August 2002 (28.08.2002) US

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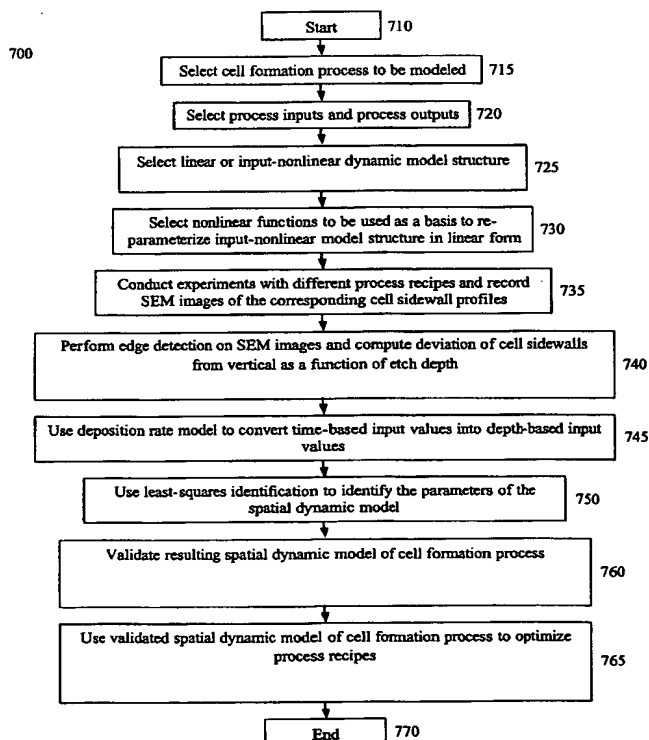
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(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE,

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DYNAMIC MODELING AND RECIPE OPTIMIZATION OF SEMICONDUCTOR ETCH PROCESSES



(57) Abstract: A method and system are disclosed for creating dynamic models (Fig. 7:760) of etch processes in semiconductor manufacturing. In one embodiment, a method comprises modeling an etch process used in semiconductor manufacturing to generate a dynamic process model. The dynamic process model is used to determine input values (Fig. 7:720) that result in a desired output value. A process recipe (Fig. 7:765) is optimized for the etch process with the input values.

WO 2004/021405 A3



ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO,
SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM,
GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:
1 July 2004

Published:

- with international search report
- with amended claims

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

AMENDED CLAIMS

**[Received by the International Bureau on 24 November 2003 (24.11.2003);
original claims 8-13 replaced by amended claims 8-13, new claims 14-39
added, other claims unchanged
(6 pages)]**

1. A method, comprising:

**modeling an etch process used in semiconductor manufacturing to generate a
dynamic process model;**

**using the dynamic process model to determine input parameters that meet a
desired output parameter; and**

optimizing a process recipe for the etch process with the input parameters.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the etch process is a cell formation process.

**3. The method of claim 1, wherein the dynamic process model is a linear ARX model
with input nonlinearities.**

**4. The method of claim 1 wherein the optimized process recipe improves cell sidewall
profiles.**

**5. The method of claim 4, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a maximum
allowable number of recipe steps as an explicit process constraint.**

**6. The method of claim 4, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a maximum
allowable input value as an explicit process constraint.**

**7. The method of claim 4, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a minimum
allowable input value as an explicit process constraint.**

8. The method of claim 1, wherein modeling an etch process, comprises:

using a non-linear model structure;

**paramaterizing one or more memoryless non-linear functions associated with the
non-linear model structure;**

deriving a linear model from the non-linear model structure;

identifying a bias value for one or more input parameters and one or more output parameters;

generating a dynamic spatial model of the one or more output parameters, wherein the one or more input parameters in a time domain relate to the one or more output parameters in a spatial domain;

predicting one or more future output parameters when one or more test input parameters are provided to the linear model; and

optimizing the one or more output parameters using the linear model.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the dynamic spatial model is a deposition rate model.

10. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more input parameters include:

one or more dopant gas flows including TriEthyl Borate, TriEthyl Phosphate, and TetraEthyl OrthoSilicate; and

one or more plasma etch inputs including pressure, power, and gas flows.

11. The method of claim 8, wherein the one or more output parameters include one or more chemical vapor deposition outputs including Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry dopant profiles before and after reflow, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy aggregate dopant profiles, plasma etch outputs, and wet clean outputs including electrical measurements, critical dimension measurements, Scanning Electron Microscopy cross-section sidewall profiles before and after wet etch in both X and Y directions.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising manufacturing a semiconductor wafer with cell profile deviations less than 100 angstroms.

13. The method of claim 8, wherein the non-linear model structure is an INARX model, wherein the memoryless non-linear functions capture dynamic etch process behaviors.

14. A system, comprising:

means for modeling an etch process used in semiconductor manufacturing to generate a dynamic process model;

means for using the dynamic process model to determine input parameters that meet a desired output parameter; and

means for optimizing a process recipe for the etch process with the input parameters.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the etch process is a cell formation process.

16. The system of claim 14, wherein the dynamic process model is a linear ARX model with input nonlinearities.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the optimized process recipe improves cell sidewall profiles.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a maximum allowable number of recipe steps as an explicit process constraint.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a maximum allowable input value as an explicit process constraint.

20. The system of claim 17, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a minimum allowable input value as an explicit process constraint.

21. The system of claim 14, wherein modeling an etch process, comprises:

means for using a non-linear model structure;

means for parameterizing one or more memoryless non-linear functions associated with the non-linear model structure;

means for deriving a linear model from the non-linear model structure;

means for identifying a bias value for one or more input parameters and one or more output parameters;

means for generating a dynamic spatial model of the one or more output parameters, wherein the one or more input parameters in a time domain relate to the one or more output parameters in a spatial domain;

means for predicting one or more future output parameters when one or more test input parameters are provided to the linear model; and

means for optimizing the one or more output parameters using the linear model.

22. The system of claim 21, wherein the dynamic spatial model is a deposition rate model.
23. The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more input parameters include:
one or more dopant gas flows including TriEthyl Borate, TriEthyl Phosphate, and TetraEthyl OrthoSilicate; and
one or more plasma etch inputs including pressure, power, and gas flows.
24. The system of claim 21, wherein the one or more output parameters include one or more chemical vapor deposition outputs including Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry dopant profiles before and after reflow, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy aggregate dopant profiles, plasma etch outputs, and wet clean outputs, wherein the wet clean outputs include electrical measurements, critical dimension measurements, and Scanning Electron Microscopy cross-section sidewall profiles before and after wet etch in both X and Y directions.
25. The system of claim 14, further comprising means for manufacturing a semiconductor wafer with cell profile deviations less than 100 angstroms.
26. The system of claim 21, wherein the non-linear model structure is an INARX model, wherein the memoryless non-linear functions capture dynamic etch process behaviors.
27. A computer readable medium, having stored thereon computer-readable instructions, which when executed in a computer system, cause the computer system to perform:
modeling an etch process used in semiconductor manufacturing to generate a dynamic process model;
using the dynamic process model to determine input parameters that meet a desired output parameter; and
optimizing a process recipe for the etch process with the input parameters.
28. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the etch process is a cell formation process.
29. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the dynamic process model is a linear ARX model with input nonlinearities.

30. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, wherein the optimized process recipe improves cell sidewall profiles.
31. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a maximum allowable number of recipe steps as an explicit process constraint.
32. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a maximum allowable input value as an explicit process constraint.
33. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the optimized process recipe incorporates a minimum allowable input value as an explicit process constraint.
34. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further having stored thereon computer-readable instructions, which when executed in the computer system when modeling an etch process, cause the computer system to perform:
- using a non-linear model structure;
 - paramaterizing one or more memoryless non-linear functions associated with the non-linear model structure;
 - deriving a linear model from the non-linear model structure;
 - identifying a bias value for one or more input parameters and one or more output parameters;
 - generating a dynamic spatial model of the one or more output parameters, wherein the one or more input parameters in a time domain relate to the one or more output parameters in a spatial domain;
 - predicting one or more future output parameters when one or more test input parameters are provided to the linear model; and
 - optimizing the one or more output parameters using the linear model.
35. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the dynamic spatial model is a deposition rate model.
36. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the one or more input parameters include:

one or more dopant gas flows including TriEthyl Borate, TriEthyl PhOsphate, and TetraEthyl OrthoSilicate; and

one or more plasma etch inputs including pressure, power, and gas flows.

37. The computer-readable medium of claim 34, wherein the one or more output parameters include one or more chemical vapor deposition outputs including Secondary Ion Mass Spectrometry dopant profiles before and after reflow, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy aggregate dopant profiles, plasma etch outputs, and wet clean outputs including electrical measurements, critical dimension measurements, Scanning Electron Microscopy cross-section sidewall profiles before and after wet etch in both X and Y directions.

38. The computer-readable medium of claim 27, further having stored thereon computer-readable instructions, which when executed in the computer system, cause the computer system to perform manufacturing a semiconductor wafer with cell profile deviations less than 100 angstroms.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 30, wherein the non-linear model structure is an INARX model, wherein the memoryless non-linear functions capture dynamic etch process behaviors.

Rec'd PTO

08 FEB 2005

10523778

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/27341

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC(7) : G06F 9/45, G06F 17/50, H01L 21/3205, H01L 21/4763, G06F 19/00 US CL : 716/5, 716/19, 438/14, 438/595, 700/121 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																				
B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 716/5, 716/19, 438/689, 438/690, 700/121 Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched NONE Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) DIALOG, CAS ONLINE																				
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X	US 6,133,132 A (TOPRAC et al.) 17 October 2000 (17.10.2000), column 3, line 7 to column 5, line 39.	1-13																		
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Date of the actual completion of the international search 20 March 2004 (20.03.2004)		Date of mailing of the international search report 10 MAY 2004																		
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